

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03157 211627Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ONY-00 SS-15 ISO-00 /026 W
-----107988 212009Z /50R

R 211620Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6032
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03157

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, OVIP, GW, TZ, RW, BY
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S TRIP TO AFRICA:
KENYA OUT, BURUNDI AND RWANDA IN

REFS: (A) BONN 2011 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 40767 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 20 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WILL VISIT TANZANIA, BURUNDI AND RWANDA FROM FEBRUARY 26 TO MARCH 4.
2. GENSCHER'S ORIGINAL ITINERARY HAD BEEN SET FOR ONLY TANZANIA AND KENYA (REF A). HOWEVER, THE ABSENCE OF THE KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE PRESIDENT, WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE OAU SUMMIT AND THEN TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON (REF B), FORCED CANCELLATION OF THE NAIROBI
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PORTION OF THE TRIP.

3. OVER THE WEEKEND, THE FOREIGN OFFICE SCRAMBLED FOR A SUBSTITUTE STOP AND DECIDED ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI. GENSCHER WILL SPEND APPROXIMATELY A DAY AND A HALF IN EACH COUNTRY AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS BUSY WORKING ON A SUITABLE AGENDA.

4. COMMENT: ONE REASON FOR THE CHOICE, WE ARE TOLD, WAS THAT GENSCHER, SHORTLY AFTER BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT RWANDA AND THE RWANDANS HAVE PUSHED SINCE THEN FOR HIM TO FOLLOW THROUGH. THE LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATION OF THE NAIROBI STOP CAUSED SOME CONFUSION IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, BUT WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY INDICATION OF ANNOYANCE AT THE FACT THAT THE KENYANS ARE GOING TO WASHINGTON INSTEAD OF RECEIVING GENSCHER.
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